

Application No.: 10/567,887
Filed: February 9, 2006
TC Art Unit: 2863
Confirmation No.: 2127

REMARKS

The foregoing Amendment is filed in response to the official action dated October 9, 2007. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The status of the claims is as follows:

Claims 1-66 are currently pending.

Of the above claims, claims 53-66 have been withdrawn from consideration.

Claims 1-9, 12-22, 25, 27-35, 38-48, and 51 stand rejected.

Claims 10-11, 23-24, 26, 36-37, 49-50, and 52 have been objected to.

Claims 1, 5, 11, 14, 17, 24, 26-27, 31, 37, 40, 43, 50, and 52 have been amended.

Claims 3, 10, 16, 23, 29, 36, 42, 49, and 53-66 have been canceled without prejudice.

The Examiner has objected to the ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE because the Abstract contains more than 150 words. In the foregoing Amendment, the Applicants have amended the Abstract to contain fewer than 150 words. In addition, the Applicants have submitted with this Amendment a REPLACEMENT ABSTRACT on a separate sheet. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE, as amended, is acceptable.

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The Examiner has objected to claims 5, 17, 31, and 43 for lack of proper antecedent basis. The Applicants have amended claims 5, 17, 31, and 43 to address the antecedent basis concerns raised by the Examiner. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claims 5, 17, 31, and 43, as amended, are allowable.

The Examiner has objected to claims 10-11, 23-24, 26, 36-37, 49-50, and 52 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The Applicants have amended base claim 1 to include all of the limitations of allowable claim 10 and intervening claim 3, which have subsequently been canceled. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that base claim 1, as amended, and claims 2, 4-9, and 11-13 depending therefrom, are allowable.

In addition, the Applicants have amended base claim 14 to include all of the limitations of allowable claim 23 and intervening claim 16, which have subsequently been canceled. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that base claim 14, as amended, and claims 15, 17-22, and 24-25 depending therefrom, are allowable.

In addition, the Applicants have amended allowable claim 26 to include all of the limitations of base claim 14, as originally

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filed. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 26, as amended, is allowable.

In addition, the Applicants have amended base claim 27 to include all of the limitations of allowable claim 36 and intervening claim 29, which have subsequently been canceled. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that base claim 27, as amended, and claims 28, 30-35, and 37-39 depending therefrom, are allowable.

In addition, the Applicants have amended base claim 40 to include all of the limitations of allowable claim 49 and intervening claim 42, which have subsequently been canceled. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that base claim 40, as amended, and claims 41, 43-48, and 50-51 depending therefrom, are allowable.

In addition, the Applicants have amended allowable claim 52 to include all of the limitations of base claim 40, as originally filed. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 52, as amended, is allowable.

In addition, the Applicants respectfully point out that claims 11, 24, 37, and 50 have been amended to account for changes in dependencies resulting from the cancellation of claims.

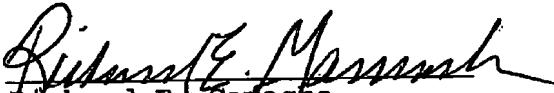
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In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance. Early and favorable action is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned Attorney to discuss any matter that would expedite allowance of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosure

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